

different inventions. The Examiner further states that these inventions are distinct and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification.

Applicants note that the present claim set has now been amended in order to recite that the textured or porous silicone rubber article in claim 41 is used in each of the claim groups created by the Examiner. Accordingly, there is no longer any basis for arguing that these groups of claims constitute independent and distinct inventions.

In view of the foregoing, the restriction requirement is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration of the requirement is requested. However, in the event the restriction requirement is adhered to, applicants respectfully elect, with traverse, the invention of the Group I claims, i.e., claims 1-39, 41 and 43, for further prosecution on the merits.

Accordingly, favorable consideration and early allowance of the claims of this application are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP CLAIMS

44. (Amended) A culture chamber for use in a method of culturing microbiological material, which comprises at least one gas-permeable wall or portion of a wall, and a textured interior growth surface arranged for contact with the microbiological material being cultured, wherein the culture chamber comprises silicone rubber as claimed in claim 41.

70. (Amended) A well for use in a method of culturing microbiological material and having at least one wall defining the well, at least a portion of the wall being gas-permeable to enhance oxygen supply to the well, and at least a portion of the interior surface of the wall being textured to increase surface area and to enhance cell adherence, wherein the well comprises silicone rubber as claimed in claim 41.

78. (Amended) An implant device comprising a cell support structure having a coating with a textured surface, to promote anchorage of the implant by cell attachment and ingrowth by surrounding tissue upon implant, wherein the implant device comprises silicone rubber as claimed in claim 41.

90. (Amended) A tissue support structure for use in a method of culturing tissue or cellular agglomerates, which comprises a biocompatible material having an internal system of pores, the pores promoting cell attachment and anchorage and oxygen supply to the tissue, wherein the tissue support structure comprises silicone rubber as claimed in claim 41.

100. (Amended) An artificial implant formed from a material having an internal system of pores, the pores promoting cell attachment and anchorage and oxygen supply to the cells on the implant surface, wherein the artificial implant comprises silicone rubber as claimed in claim 41.

116. (Amended) A cell implant means comprising a porous material for retention of cells to be implanted, the pores promoting cell attachment and anchorage and oxygen supply to the cells, and a protective means to shield the cells from immune attack after implant, wherein the cell implant means comprises silicone rubber as claimed in claim 41.

123. (Amended) A drug delivery system comprising a porous material whose pores have been impregnated or saturated with a drug for delivery, wherein the drug delivery system comprises silicone rubber as claimed in claim 41.

128. (Amended) A filtration media comprising porous silicone rubber, for use in separations, wherein the filtration media comprises silicone rubber as claimed in claim 41.

138. (Amended) A cell cryopreservation system, comprising a porous material for absorbing cell culture into the internal system of pores and a container suitable for storage in liquid nitrogen, wherein the cell cryopreservation system comprises silicone rubber as claimed in claim 41.

143. (Amended) An electrode comprising a porous material having electrically conductive particles disperses therein, wherein the electrode comprises silicone rubber as claimed in claim 41.

150. (Amended) A wound dressing comprising a first layer of a porous gel and a second layer of a carrier gel, wherein the wound dressing comprises silicone rubber as claimed in claim 41.

157. (Amended) A clinical swab, comprising a porous material, the pores increasing the surface area of the swab and promoting oxygen transport to the swab surface, wherein the clinical swab comprises silicone rubber as claimed in claim 41.